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XPEDITOR

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

January 29, 2003

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

03V-020 ① or ②

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.5(c)(1)
Autocar, LLC
350 Deerfield Road
Union City, Indiana 47390-1039

573.5(c)(2)
Certain Autocar WX, WXL, and WXR model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles assembled by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. between May 3, 2002; and August 23, 2002.

The vehicles affected by this notification were selected by using the part numbers of the two suspect axle seats and the time period that the suspect axle seats were used in production.

573.5(c)(3)
Thirty-two (32) vehicles potentially contain the suspect defect.

573.5(c)(4)
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is unknown.

573.5(c)(5)
The forward and/or rear drive axle upper axle seat may break potentially allowing the affected axle to shift out of alignment. This condition could result in loss of axle stability and potential for vehicle crash.

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573.5 (c)(6)

- 10-13-02 Quality personnel reported that during installation of an upper axle seat to the rear drive axle the axle seat broke when the u-bolts, which attach the seat to the suspension, were tightened.
- 11-7-02 Results of vendor analysis indicated that the suspect upper axle seat was not within material specification. A review of the vendor's records identified three date codes, which were affected.
- 11-14-02 No reports of failures have been reported on vehicles in the field (service).
- 11-19-02 Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. decided that such condition constitutes a defect and that such condition is safety-related.
- 11-20-02 Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. informed Autocar that they would be performing the recall on the trucks assembled in their facility and would do all the necessary paperwork.
- 1-28-03 Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. Informed Autocar that due to difficulties processing the recall claims for Autocar product through their warranty system they decided that Autocar should process the recall claims on their own Warranty Claim System.

573.5(c)(7)

Not applicable

573.5(c)(8)

Autocar, LLC. will initiate a voluntary recall of all 32 vehicles which could contain the suspect forward drive axle or rear drive axle seats.

The recall will consist of the replacement of the upper axle seat on both rear drive axles.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Autocar, LLC. is A - 0301

Volvo Trucks North America informed both Autocar and Volvo owners and dealerships concurrently of their recall, however, when the recall claims started to come in from the Volvo dealerships problems arose when the Volvo Recall System rejected any VINs assigned by Autocar. To remedy this situation Volvo decided to assign the Autocar portion of the recall over to Autocar. Autocar is planning on notifying the dealerships to file Autocar recall claims through the Autocar Warranty system instead of Volvo's but will leave the rest

of the paperwork as distributed by Volvo. Autocar feels that sending out new Bulletins and Owner Letters will only confuse the situation. Recall parts will still be purchased through Volvo Parts and the time allowances will remain unchanged so the only difference to the dealership is what computer system the claim is filed on.

If you have any concerns with the direction we are taking on this recall please contact the undersigned.

Very Truly Yours

AUTOCAR, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan R. Gornick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" at the end.

Stan R. Gornick, P. Eng.
Manager, Compliance & Engineering Quality